

VZCZCXYZ0024  
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSO #0030 0121231  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 121231Z JAN 07  
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6274  
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 7357  
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 7706  
RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC 2678

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000030

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ: PRESIDENT BUSH'S IRAQ SECURITY PLAN;  
SAO PAULO

"Bush's Plan"

The lead editorial in liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (1/12) asserted: "By announcing the sending of additional 20,000 troops to Iraq, President George W. Bush ignored the wishes of even many of his allies. The White House's new strategy contradicts the US Council of former Military Commanders in Iraq.... Bush's decision also opposes the military and political experience acquired over the past four years in Iraq. Similar attempts failed.... Of course, there was some progress in the presidential course towards a less obscure view of reality. Bush admitted for the first time the possibility of the US leaving Iraq defeated and recognized having committed strategic mistakes. Everything indicates that the new plan is another such mistake.... Of course, the new plan could theoretically help to pacify Baghdad.... The problem with the new strategy is that it depends on many 'ifs.' Even 35,000 troops are few to police a disturbed 6 million-inhabitant city.... Part of the Shiite militias fostering the civil war has infiltrated the Iraqi army. The idea of bringing Kurd troops from the northern region is also troublesome. The best chance the Kurds have to form an independent national state depends on the fragmentation of Iraq. The proposal of making social investments to follow military actions is a good one, but it seems too late for that.... The truth is that the war in Iraq was a complete disaster. President Bush speaks about victory and proposes an escalation of a conflict that, at the current moment, can hardly tolerate a military solution. And worse, he does that by contradicting everything and everyone."  
McMullen